



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
CREEKS RESTORATION/WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

REGULAR MEETING

July 16, 2008

DAVID GEBHARD PUBLIC MEETING ROOM, 630 GARDEN STREET

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hochman called the meeting to order at 5:34pm.

ROLL CALL

Committee members present: Chair Hochman, Michael Jordan, Lee Moldaver, Roger Schlueter, Daniel Wilson

Committee members absent: George Weber

Liaison members present: Councilmember Iya Falcone, Park and Recreation Commissioner Beebe Longstreet

Liaison members absent: Planning Commissioner John Jostes

Staff present: Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager Cameron Benson, Water Resources Specialist Tim Burgess, Creeks Outreach Coordinator Jill Sarick Santos, Creeks Program Assistant Liz Smith

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion:

Committee members Moldaver/Jordan to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 21, 2008.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote.

Motion:

Committee members Moldaver/Schlueter to approve the minutes of the special meeting of June 18, 2008.

Vote:

Voice vote 4/0; Jordan abstained.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one wished to speak.

COMMITTEE MEMBER AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Moldaver noted that Committee Liaison member Robert Almy has retired from the County, and asked how the County would replace Mr. Almy.

Mr. Benson reported that he has been in contact with the County, and that they are considering how to fill the position.

Mr. Jordan announced that the Mr. Benson will provide the annual Creeks Division update to the Greater Santa Barbara Lodging and Restaurant Association (GSBLRA) on September 17, 2008.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Benson announced that the Arroyo Burro Estuary and Mesa Creek Restoration Project had been awarded the 2008 Public Open Space Award by Santa Barbara Beautiful, and that the Creeks Division 2008 Report would be released soon.

Mr. Moldaver asked when the Creeks Division 2008 Report will be released.

Mr. Benson reported that the 2008 Report will be officially released at the City Council meeting on July 29, 2008, and that he will take copies to the GSBLRA meeting in September.

Mr. Schlueter reported that he is impressed with the Arroyo Burro Estuary and Mesa Creek Restoration, and asked whether the Report is produced annually.

Mr. Benson reported that the Creeks Division produced annual reports in 2001, 2002, and 2003, and that there have been annual reports to Council and the GSBLRA every year, but there has not been a physical report since 2003; and, that the current report is focused primarily on 2007-2008, but includes some information on progress made since 2003.

Mr. Jordan suggested that staff reach out to the GSBLA and residents of the Mesa neighborhood, DFP Committee, and Mesa Committee, to invite them to attend the Santa Barbara Beautiful Award presentation in September.

BUSINESS ITEMS

9a. Storm Drain Screen Covers

Recommendation:

That the Committee review and concur with the Creeks Division recommendation to Council that the City enter a sole source contract with Ecology Control Industries (ECI) for the manufacture and installation of storm drain screen covers in the Old Mission Creek watershed, and an option to renew the contract to up to four years.

Documents:

Staff Report – July 2008
Power Point Presentation – July 2008

Speakers:

Tim Burgess, Water Resources Specialist

Motion:

Committee members Moldaver/Jordan to concur with staff recommendation that Council issue a sole source contract with Ecology Control Industries (ECI) to install storm drain screen covers with a four year option to renew.

Committee Questions/Discussion:

Committee members asked questions regarding the four year option to renew.

Mr. Benson clarified that the four year option allows staff to work with the same company should the screens prove successful and more funding become available to install screens elsewhere in the City.

Mr. Jordan noted that storm water in the Lighthouse Watershed is not tested or treated before reaching the ocean, and requested that the area be considered for debris removal efforts.

Committee members asked questions regarding the primary source of trash in the creeks; what percent of trash making its way to the creeks will be interrupted; and, whether the first flush would open the screens allowing trash to enter the catch basin.

Mr. Burgess reported that the primary source of trash is people tossing trash items into the streets and catch basins, and that wind, passing cars, and storm water wash trash into storm drains; that staff will continue surveying trash collected and compare it to baseline data; and, that trash is picked up by street sweepers weekly during the dry season, and that some trash will enter the storm drains during a big storm event, but the screens will still reduce the amount of trash entering the creeks;

Mr. Benson reported that during storm events trash items won't necessarily be dropped into catch basins, because the pressure of the water will only open the screens enough to let water get through.

Committee members asked questions regarding the number of screens that will be installed; how the cost compares to other vendors; and, how the amount of trash kept from entering the creeks will be monitored.

Mr. Burgess reported that 116 screens will be installed initially; that other screens field tested did not function correctly and so bids were not requested

from those vendors, but that the cost provided by ECI was comparable to their 2005 bid for the City of Los Angeles; and, that staff has baseline data from cleaning creeks weekly, and that data on the trash removed will continue to be collected and compared to previous data.

Mr. Benson noted that where the Westside storm drain enters Bohnett Park, staff will be able to monitor the volume of trash caught by the grate over the drain on a weekly basis, as well as in the SURF facility intake, where trash is often caught.

Mr. Wilson encouraged extra monitoring detail, and expanding the program throughout the City, but noted that there are many avenues for trash to enter creeks and requested that staff evaluate the effectiveness of the screens before precluding other options.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote.

Committee Comments:

Mr. Hochman expressed his support of additional monitoring and reporting of trash removed from the creeks, and the importance of removing trash from the creeks and beach, particularly during the summer months when tourists are visiting.

Public Comment:

No one wished to speak.

9b. Follow-Up Public Opinion Research Survey

Recommendation:

That the Committee receive a presentation and discuss the 2008 follow-up public opinion research survey results.

Documents:

Staff Report – July 2008

Power Point Presentation – July 2008

Handout – Report and Aggregate Results – May/June 2008

Speakers:

Cameron Benson, Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager

Paul Goodwin, Goodwin Simon Victoria Research

Committee Questions:

Ms. Falcone expressed her hope that the community's support of additional pollution regulations will translate into support of a Styrofoam and plastic bag ban.

Ms. Falcone left at 6:52pm.

Committee members asked questions regarding how the demographic has changed since the 2002 survey; whether particular businesses were surveyed both times; and, how accurate the information is considering the sample size.

Mr. Goodwin reported that the main difference in demographics is that this survey was weighted to match census data; it is unlikely that many businesses were interviewed both times; and, that the margin of error does not depend much on sample size compared to population, and that he is confident in the results.

Mr. Moldaver suggested that staff share the information with the Goleta, Santa Barbara and Carpinteria Chambers of Commerce.

Committee members asked what Mr. Goodwin found to be the most surprising information collected; the age breakdown of those surveyed and the effectiveness of educating school age children who then educate their parents; how results compare to the same question nationwide, and whether results can be attributed to local efforts as opposed to societal changes; and, the breakdown of the businesses surveyed.

Mr. Goodwin reported that he was surprised that more residents did not consider themselves a primary source of storm water pollution; that only adults were surveyed, but that in Los Angeles County school based environmental programs have shown to be very effective; that the consciousness in California, particularly along the coast, is very different from the rest of the country; and, that apart from restaurants and auto businesses, 24% of those surveyed were service industry, 3% arts, 10% health care, and 14% retail.

Mr. Moldaver left at 7:01pm.

Mr. Jordan suggested a meeting of the Education and Outreach Subcommittee to further discuss the report; that staff consider a rebate program for homeowners who take storm water pollution prevention measures, and certifying homeowners similar to the business certification program; and, that staff present information to neighborhood groups on how to decrease storm water pollution.

Mr. Benson reported that staff is always available to give presentations to neighborhood groups.

Committee members asked questions regarding the air times of specific advertising the survey questioned participants about.

Mr. Benson reported that the ads mentioned in the survey were aired within the last two years.

Mr. Hochman suggested that new goals should include increasing awareness of storm water pollution among those we have not yet reached; and, focusing on small behavior changes in the community.

Public Comment:

No one wished to speak.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

Committee members Wilson/Schlueter to adjourn.

Chair Hochman adjourned the meeting at 7:24pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cameron Benson
Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager